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| Coronavirus (COVID-19) |
| Testing requirements policy  22 April 2022  Version 5.0 |
| OFFICIAL |

# Background

This document describes the ‘Testing Requirements Policy regarding the types of COVID-19 tests for cohorts covered by the ***Pandemic (Quarantine Isolation and Testing) Order***.

This document may be amended from time to time by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

Testing Requirements

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| **Classification** | **Mandatory Testing Requirements** |
| **Close contact** | A **close contact** with **COVID-19 symptoms** must undertake a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** upon symptom onset. Should the **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a positive result**,** a **close contact** mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**). If the result is negative, the **close contact** must undertake a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** on the sixth day of the self-quarantine period.  A **close contact** without **COVID-19 symptoms** must undertake a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** on the first and sixth day from when they are required to self-quarantine. Should the **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a positive result**,** a **close contact** mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).  If the **close contact** is unable to access a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT),** they must undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** instead.  It is recommended that a **close contact** undertakea **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** on three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine.  *Note: this should be in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure\*\*****.*  *Note: A close contact who is electing to undertake surveillance testing instead of self-quarantine, must undertake 5 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, spaced at least 24 hours apart, during the period commencing from the date the person became a close contact until the date the close contact’s period of self-quarantine would have ended.* |
| **International arrival**  **(includes aircrew, maritime crew and passengers)** | An **international arrival** must undertake a **COVID-19 PCR test** or a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms within seven days after arrival in Australia. |
| **Social contact**  **(includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)** | A **social contact** must undertake a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test** if experiencingCOVID-19 symptoms and self-quarantine until they are notified of a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.  Should the **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a **positive** result**,** a **social contact** mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the resultas soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**). |

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| **Classification** | **Recommended Testing** |
| **International arrival**  **(includes aircrew, maritime crew and passengers)** | An **international arrival** is recommended to undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival in Victoria.  *Note: An asymptomatic international arrival undertaking a test, should undertake a* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)*** *not a* ***COVID-19 PCR test.*** |
| **Social contact**  **(includes contacts in workplaces and social settings)** | A **social contact** without **COVID-19 symptoms** is strongly recommended to undertake daily **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** for five days following notification that they are a **social contact**.  Should the **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a positive result**,** a **social contact** mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).  *Note: this is in accordance with the* ***COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure****.\*\** |
| **Symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (not a close contact or social contact)** | A symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (who is not a close contact or social contact) who is experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms** is recommended to undertake a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** or a **COVID-19 PCR test** as soon as possible after symptom onset, and self-quarantine until they receive a negative result or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.  Should the **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a positive result**,** they mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**). |
| **Asymptomatic person in the community (not a close contact or social contact)** | An asymptomatic person is a person in the community or a workplace who is not experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms.**  Should a **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** return a positive result**,** an asymptomatic person in the community mustnotify the Department of Health\* of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a **probable case**).  It is recommended for an asymptomatic person in the community to confirm a positive **COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT)** with a **COVID-19 PCR test.** |

Definitions (in **bold**) can be found in the ***Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order***.

\* The Department of Health can be notified via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form online at <https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test> or call centre on [1800 675 398](tel:1800%20675%20398).

\*\*The **COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure** means if a person completed a COVID-19 rapid antigen test:

* the person must undertake a second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** as soon as possible if the person receives an invalid test result from the first **COVID-19 rapid antigen test**, such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is a negative test result; and
* if the result of the second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** is invalid such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is negative, the person must complete a **COVID-19 PCR test** within 24 hours and remain in **self-quarantine** until the person receives a negative test result.